

**ARIZONA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**Minutes of Thursday, January 8, 2015 from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 250 Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

Commission Members Present:

Buddy Rocha (phone)
Dan Brooks
Dave Castillo (phone)
Francis Bradley (phone)
Leah Hubbard
Lucinda Hughes-Juan (phone)
Nathan Pryor

Commission Members Absent:

Billie Spurlin
Derreck Wheeler
Philbert Watahomigie, Sr.

Staff Present:

Kristine Fire Thunder

Ex-Officio Officers Present

Courtney Coolidge (phone)
Dawn Melvin
Dawn Williams (phone)
Debora Norris
Mary Huyser
Michael Allison

Ex-Officio Officers Absent

Keith Watkins
Misty Klann

Members of the Public Present:

Olivia Doherty, Tribal Liaison – Governor's Office of Energy Policy
René White, Tribal Liaison – Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
Nathan Esquerra, Program Director, NAU – CAIED

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 A.M. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. 1/20/15 Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day

ITCA will be hosting an invitation only breakfast for tribal leaders from 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM. We are at participant capacity and no further registration will be accepted. Navajo Technical University will be providing soup and sandwiches for the luncheon with a traditional menu for 550 people.

At 1:00 PM, an information session on Youth Suicide Prevention will be moderated by Kelli Donley from the Department of Health Services. Concurrently we will be hosting the Native Youth Know (NYK) Forum in partnership with the National Relief Charities (NRC). Waylon Pahona will be the keynote speaker of the forum, followed by an interactive workshop. Jacob Moore, ASU Tribal Relations Assistant Director will be our master of ceremonies. The workshop will enable youth groups to explore issue areas and engage solutions to those issues within their communities. Following the break-out sessions we will have the groups do small presentations on what they learned from the exercise. The youth will be given the opportunity to fill out a personal commitment card asking them to be a change agent in their own community. There will be volunteer note takers to write down all the data to be used in our report. At the conclusion of the

event NRC will do an oversized check presentation to the NYK awardees. The participants will receive up to \$2000.00 cash and \$1500.00 in technical assistance. Ms. Hughes-Juan asked if the youth groups were required to submit a project proposal to attend. A project proposal is not required to participate in the event though the NRC is continuing to market the project through all Arizona tribes.

We have received in kind donations from Native American Connections, Native Home Capital, and Kitchell to provide sketch books and colored pencils as incentives to the youth groups. Primary sponsors for the event this year are APS, SRP, Freeport MacMoRan, and Arizona State University-Presidents Office on American Indian Initiatives, University of Arizona-Office on Tribal Outreach, City of Maricopa, and National Relief Charities.

Ms. Hughes Juan, Mr. Brooks and Ms. Hubbard have pledged five or more volunteers to support the event, Mrs. Fire Thunder showed gratitude for their support.

Mr. Pryor requested information as to how tribes were notified of the event. Mrs. Fire Thunder responded ITCA handled Tribal leader outreach and invitations. However, she was given the opportunity to give a presentation at the last tribal leaders meeting. Mr. Pryor commended ITCA for their involvement and stated the reason for his inquisition was because Senator Carlyle Begay asked him what the Native American Caucus can do to assist with the event. The Caucus suggested they make contact with the Tribal leaders in their respective districts and extend invitations to ensure attendance. In terms of the seating issues on the Senate floor, Mr. Pryor offered to develop a seating chart matching tribes to legislative districts in correlation with the Senate floor chart. This would provide a guide of Senate representative's districts, and tribes to minimize confusion. Mrs. Fire Thunder stated she is concerned there may be some perception that we are telling them where they have to sit. Mr. Pryor hopes to alleviate that concern by distributing the information in advance to handle any concerns on a case-by-case basis.

Senator Begay made an unannounced appearance and was introduced by Mr. Pryor. Mr. Pryor asked the committee to allow for latitude in lieu of the Open Meeting Law to give Senator Begay an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the Navajo Nation's request to be allowed to speak in the Joint Protocol Session of INTLD and announce commencement of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Mrs. Fire Thunder informed Senator Begay the agenda was designed by ITCA and they would need to be consulted regarding any changes. She added the Navajo Nation was on the agenda last year, and it is precedent to invite tribes to participate as speakers in rotation. In reply, Senator Begay suggested forwarding a letter the Governor received from Navajo Nation to the attention of ITCA for review.

Mr. Pryor introduced Mr. Tapia from National Relief Charities (NRC) for discussion on the youth forum. Mr. Tapia gave an overview of the youth forum and the importance of involving Native youth in a discussion involving issues impacting their lives. Waylon Pahona, Healthy Active Natives will be the keynote speaker in the youth forum. The goal is to encourage thought on what the issues and solutions are in their community. Then evaluate what they can do to stimulate change in their community, starting with a personal commitment. The youth will be given an opportunity to present issues found in their communities and provide solutions to move toward change. The second tier of

the forum will be the NYK project awards, four youth groups will be awarded scholarships for a cash value up to \$2000.00 and technical assistance up to \$1500.00 for projects they created focused on public safety. Participants will be asked to visit six health and wellness exhibitors and to earn an incentive. Sketch pads and colored pencils will be given to those participants who complete a signed commitment card, at the conclusion of the event NRC will give all youth a backpack with essential school supplies, snacks, hygiene products.

Discussion was turned towards the Suicide Prevention information session. Kelli Donley from the Arizona Department of Health Services approached Mrs. Fire Thunder with the suicide prevention idea. This topic is a focused public safety issue in continuity in our panel discussion from last year. The panel of law enforcement and public safety officials discussed a spectrum of issues including alcoholism, substance abuse, and health issues based on poor choices and suicide. Mr. Pryor suggested the audience be given an introduction with the findings from the panel, requesting Mr. Bradley perform that task. Mr. Pryor thanked Mrs. Fire Thunder, Commission staff and Mr. Tapia for their work and dedication to the event.

FUTURE MEETING:

Thursday, April 9, 2015 from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M. Location (TBD)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Suicide Prevention Information Session Follow-Up - Kelli Donley, Arizona Department of Health
2. Native American Management Program Update – Leah Hubbard
3. Arizona Office of Tourism Update – Dawn Melvin - Tentative

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Melvin presented materials available from the Arizona Office of Tourism, Official State Visitors Guide, companion state map, and mouse pad calendars. Arizona Indian Festival will be held in Scottsdale, January 29th-31st in Scottsdale Civic Park. They have received excellent tribal participation response with a goal to have every tribe representative. Information can be found at www.arizonaindiantourism.com.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:11 A.M.